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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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Instructions on File

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1951

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT American Prisoners of War in South China

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(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In early April American prisoners of war from Korea began arriving in Hankow, where they were turned over to the Chinese Communist Central and South China Military Command. By 15 April approximately 500 had arrived in Hankow, and on 18 April some of these prisoners were paraded through the streets of Hankow under heavy guard.
2. In mid-April 60 prisoners of war, most of whom were American and the rest British, arrived in Canton via the Canton-Hankow railway.¹ In early May they were being detained in a foreign-style compound at the corner of Tunghua Road, East, and Kueinichao (龜泥脚) in Tungshan, Canton.² There were barbed wire barricades around the compounds, and a Public Security division mounted a heavy guard around the area. No one was allowed to enter without permission from high Communist authorities. The prisoners were treated fairly well, and were given good food and billets.
3. In mid-June 52 American prisoners of war from Korea were incarcerated in the Baptist church on Tunghua Road, Canton. These prisoners were sent to Canton because the Chinese Communist authorities hoped to obtain military and medical supplies from the United States Government in return for their release. They planned to demand U. S. \$100,000 worth of supplies for each prisoner released. The British and Indian Governments were to be used as intermediaries.³

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] there was no indication, as of 24 May, that American prisoners of war were being sent to Canton. There were no barbed wire barricades at the end of Tunghua Road, East, Canton.

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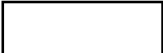
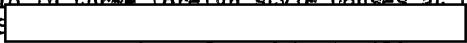

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2.  Comment. Casual informants in Canton have stated that as of 20 April 25 American prisoners of war who had arrived in Canton were being held in three foreign style houses at the end of Tunghua Road, East.  reports that some of these prisoners were transferred to Kweilin on 2 May. 25X1A
- 25X1A 3.  Comment. According to some Chinese newsmen in Hong Kong, the presence of United States or United Nations troops in Canton as of mid-June cannot be confirmed. The original report appeared in the Hong Kong newspaper Hsing Tao Jih Pao (like the Hong Kong Tiger Standard, a publication of AW Boon-haw) in late April. The reporter probably based his information on the statement of a traveller from Canton, who stated he had seen prisoners in Tungshan. The Hsing Tao Jih Pao would print any news embarrassing to the United States.

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